

The Algebra Project—Robert Moses

Robert Moses is a long-time civil rights activist and has made a compelling case in his book* and work for algebra being central in the civil rights struggle. Moses has developed a pedagogy that has strong inquiry-based characteristics. It is a five-phase model EMDAS:

Experience – Model – Describe (informal) – Abstract (formal description) - Symbolize

Launch: Experience
Explore: Model, Describe
Summarize: Abstract, Symbolize

We often hear much talk about addressing diversity in our classrooms. In many instances very little structure is provided on how to develop pedagogical approaches for this important aspect of teaching. It seems to me that Robert Moses has pointed us in one possible direction.

Below are several resources that you might find interesting.

Websites:

The Algebra Project: <http://www.algebra.org/>

PBS: <http://www.pbs.org/now/society/moses.html>

Mother Jones: <http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2002/05/moses.html>

Learn to Question:

<http://www.learntoquestion.com/seevak/groups/2001/sites/moses/ap/crossover-page1.htm>

Choosing Democracy: <http://choosingdemocracy.blogspot.com/2006/12/bob-moses-and-algebra-project.html>

Civic Practices Network: <http://www.cpn.org/topics/youth/k12/algebra.html>

Books:

*Robert P. Moses and Charles E. Cobb, Jr. (2001). *Radical Equations: Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project*. Beacon Press.